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104. The method of claim 100 wherein providing data establishing criteria to cause a bonus to be paid via one of the gaming devices upon the occurrence of a predetermined event comprises providing data causing the bonus to be paid only if predetermined minimum gaming device activity is achieved.

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105. The method of claim 100 wherein said predetermined event comprises transmission of a pay command from the host computer to the controller.

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106. The method of claim 101 wherein said predetermined transaction comprises playing a game at the gaming device.

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 4, 1998. Applicant has amended claim 88 to address the 35 USC § 112, 2d paragraph rejection. Applicant's amendment is made solely to remove the indefiniteness noted by the Examiner. Accompanying this amendment is a terminal disclaimer, which overcomes the double patenting rejection. The application relied upon by the Examiner in the double patenting rejection has since issued as U.S. Patent 5,836,817, and this is reflected in the enclosed terminal disclaimer.

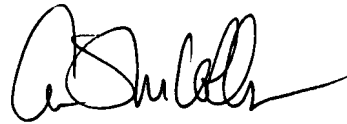
Finally, Applicant has added new claims 100-106. Claims 100-105 track very closely claims 24 to 29 in issued U.S. Patent 5,836,817, and a copy of these claims is attached to this amendment. Applicant has, however, reordered the steps, has clarified the step of initiating a bonus period, and has eliminated the step of selecting a plurality of the gaming devices. Each of dependent claims 101-105 substantially track dependent claims 25-29 in the '817 patent. New claim 106 does not have a corresponding claim in the '817 patent. Support for it is found on page 47 of the application, after Table 2. Because new claims 100-106 vary only slightly in scope from issued claims in the '817 patent, the new claims presented in this amendment are also patentable over the prior art of record. And the terminal disclaimer prevents there from being a double patenting issue.

It should be noted that the Examiner found the attached claims 24-29 to be patentable over the all of the patents listed on the first two pages of the PTO 1449 form attached to the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98 (d), copies of the references listed on the first two pages are not submitted. Applicant believes that all of the

currently pending claims in this application are also patentable over the several newly submitted references, copies of which are submitted, listed on page three of the PTO 1449 form in the accompanying IDS.

Applicant accordingly requests that this amendment be entered and that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability after considering the references listed in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan T. McCollom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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